

The Patricia Mulholland Papers

N29

The National Dance Archive of Ireland Glucksman Library University of Limerick

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Reference Code: IE 2135 N29 **Title:** The Patricia Mulholland Papers

Dates of Creation: 1929-c. 1990s (predominantly 1951-1979)

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 2 boxes (81 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator(s): Graham, Thomas and MacCafferty, Joyce Ann.

Biographical History: Thomas Graham and Joyce Ann MacCafferty were former pupils and dancers of the Belfast-born Patricia Mulholland (1915-1992). Mulholland was the founder of the Irish Ballet School in Belfast and of the Irish Ballet Company, which made its debut in 1951 during the Festival of Britain in the Empire Theatre, Belfast. In 1953, at the request of CEMA, Mulholland devised and produced the first Irish folk ballet, Cuchulain. A further group of ballets was sponsored by CEMA, including The Piper, The Dream of Angus Óg, and Follow Me Down to Carlow. Other works in her extensive choreography, strongly influenced by Irish legends and folklore, include The Mother of Oisín, The Black Rogue, the Oul' Lammas Fair in 1900, The Children of Lír, Phil the Fluter's Ball, and The Hound of Culann. Mulholland's choreographies were not ballet in the classical sense but a form of folk ballet – Irish mythology interpreted by Irish dancers to Irish music and song. Patricia Mulholland is regarded as one of the most influential figures of twentieth-century Irish traditional dancing and the founder of Festival Dance, a specialised form of Irish dancing which focuses on the individuality of each dancer's style, thus breaking away from the more rigid and formulaic 'Feis' style.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Files N29/1/1-9 were donated by Thomas Graham and the remainder by Joyce Ann MacCafferty to the National Dance Archive of Ireland on 8 September 2011.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: Mainly photocopies or photographic copies of programmes, press cuttings, photographs, and stage sets donated by Thomas Graham and Joyce Ann MacCafferty to illustrate Patricia Mulholland's career as a dancer and choreographer and the activities of her Irish Ballet Company.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: All records have been retained.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The material has been divided into two series according to the donor. Within Series 1, items have been arranged chronologically by date. Within Series 2, items have been arranged thematically by their form (e.g. programmes) and thereunder

chronologically by date. It should be noted that as accurate dating of photographs was not possible, they have been listed according to the year of the first performance of the dance work to which they relate.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to all items.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

Language/ Scripts of Material: Predominantly English. Items 2/1/1 and 2/1/9 are in Irish. Item 2/6/1 is in French.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Paper documents and photographs in good condition.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections and Archives Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Existence and Location of Originals: The photographs and stage sets in Sections 2/3 and 2/4 are copies of originals from the private collections of the following individuals: Margot Brown (2/3/7), Kevin Campbell (2/3/13, 2/3/15), Brendan Carson (2/3/2, 2/3/4, 2/3/8, 2/3/16, 2/3/24-25), Valerie Hamill (2/3/14, 2/3/17), Stella Logan (2/3/6), Joyce Ann MacCafferty (2/3/5, 2/3/11-12, 2/3/21-22), Maeve McGahon (2/3/1), and Audrey Clark Walker (2/3/3). Colour stills 2/3/9-10 and 2/3/18 are from a video in the possession of Maire Bunting. Stage sets 2/4/1-7 are in the possession of Sheelagh McRandall. Images 2/3/19-20 and 2/3/23, originally in the possession of Brian Bunting, are now in the Brian Bunting Papers as N78/2/4/8-9 and N78/2/5/1.

Related Units of Description: Patricia Mulholland's personal papers are held by her nieces and nephews, primarily by Stella Logan, Maeve MacGahan, and Patricia O'Neill. For additional material relating to Patricia Mulholland held in the National Dance Archive of Ireland, see N65 (Norman Maen Papers) and N78 (Brian Bunting Papers).

Publication Note: The material in Series 2 was used by Joyce Ann MacCafferty for her biography of Patricia Mulholland, *The Deep Green Pool* (Derry: Guildhall Press, 2007). A copy of this book is available at the Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000, *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009, *National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names*, 1997, and *EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services*, 2018.

Date of Description: August 2012. Revised June 2020.

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The Patricia Mulholland Papers

1 DONATED BY THOMAS GRAHAM (1958-1971)

1/1 26 November 1958

Photocopy of a programme of a performance by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the Town Hall, Newry. The repertoire included *A Piper*, *The Dream of Angus Óg*, and *Follow Me Down to Carlow*.

4 pp.

1/2 [November 1958?]

Colour photocopy of a programme of a performance by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet [at the Ulster Hall, Belfast?]. The repertoire included *A Piper*, *The Dream of Angus* Óg, and *Follow Me Down to Carlow*.

6 pp.

1/3 [21 November 1959]

Photocopy of a programme of a performance by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet [at Sion Mills, Larne, county Tyrone]. The repertoire included *The Black Rogue, Mother of Oisín*, and *The Oul' Lammas Fair in 1900*.

12 pp.

1/4 [c. 1950s-1960s]

Photocopies of press cuttings relating to Patricia Mulholland and her Irish Ballet, including results of folk dancing championships and reviews of performances.

7 pp.

1/5 25 March 1960

Photocopy of a programme of a performance of a Midnight Matinee of entertainment at the Tonic Theatre, [Tonbridge, Kent?], including a performance of *The Oul' Lammas Fair in 1900* by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet.

6 pp.

1/6 21 July 1962

Programme of an evening of Irish song and dance at the British Medical Association, Belfast. The performers included Brendan O'Dowda, Mary McEvoy, the Patricia Mulholland Dancers, and David Curry and his orchestra. The programme incorporates a foreword by Havelock Nelson and biographies of the performers. Also see N29/2/1/6.

12 pp.

N29/

1/7 28 February-4 March [1967?]

Colour photocopy of a programme of performances by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the Grove Theatre, Belfast. The repertoire for the week included a full range of Mulholland's folk ballets. For a related press cutting, see N29/2/2/12.

4 pp.

1/8 [1968?]

Photocopy of a programme of a performance by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the Grand Opera House, Belfast. The repertoire included A Piper, The Dream of Angus Óg, and The Variety Market.

7 pp.

1/9 9 January 1971

Photocopy of a programme of a performance by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the Municipal School of Music Theatre, Cork. The repertoire included *Celtic Anthology*, *The Dream of Angus Óg*, and *Three Lovely Lassies in Bannion*.

5 pp.

2 DONATED BY JOYCE ANN MACCAFFERTY (1929-c. 1990s)

2.1 <u>Programmes (1943-1991)</u>

2/1/1 1943

Colour photocopy of part of a programme of Dundalk Feis. Competitors included Patricia Mulholland. In Irish.

2 pp.

2/1/2 1 December 1953

Photocopy of a programme of a performance of Patricia Mulholland's first ballet, *Cuchulain*, at the City Hall, Armagh.

2 pp.

2/1/3 [c. 1950s-1970s?]

Photocopy of part of a programme of an event which included a performance of *A Piper* [by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet].

2 pp.

2/1/4 [c. 1950s-1970s?]

Photocopy of part of a programme of an event which included a performance of *Three Lovely Lassies in Bannion* by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet.

2 pp.

2/1/5 [c. 1950s-1970s?]

Photocopy of part of a programme of an event which included a performance of *Children of Lir* [by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet].

2 pp.

2/1/6 [21 July 1962]

Photocopy of part of a programme of an evening of Irish song and dance with Brendan O'Dowda, Mary McEvoy, the Patricia Mulholland Dancers, and David Curry and His Orchestra at the British Medical Association, Belfast. Also see N29/1/6.

2 pp.

2/1/7 15 March 1968

Programme of a performance by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at Ballymena Boys' Intermediate School [county Antrim]. The repertoire included *Celtic Anthology*, *The Hound of Culann*, and *The Variety Market*.

4 pp.

2/1/8 2 July-5 August [1968]

Souvenir programme of the Peel Viking Festival in the grounds of Peel Castle on the Isle of Man. Participants included the Patricia Mulholland Dancers who entertained the audience with Irish dances. The programme incorporates historical background notes to Peel, Viking Boat Races, and the Burning of the Fleet AD 1228.

24 pp.

2/1/9 8-9 April 1972

Photocopy of a programme of performances by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at Gweedore Theatre [county Donegal]. The repertoire included *The Black Rogue*, *Cuchulain*, and *Phil the Fluter's Ball*. In Irish.

3 pp.

2/1/10 1980-1981

Photocopy of a programme of the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet 1980-1981 season.

1 p.

2/1/11 1981-1982

Programme of the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet 30th Anniversary Season with venues, dates, and choreographic notes on performances.

1 item

2/1/12 1982-1983

Photocopy of a programme of the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet 1982-1983 season.

1 p.

2/1/13 1983-1984

Photocopy of a programme of the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet 1983-1984 season.

1 p.

2/1/14 7-11 March 1989

Photocopy of a programme of performances by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at Belfast Civic Arts Theatre.

1 p.

2/1/15 20-24 February 1990

Programme of performances by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at Belfast Civic Arts Theatre. The repertoire included *Interpretations*, *Deirdre*, *Phil the Fluter's Ball*, *A Day at the Festival*, *The Children of Lír*, *The Birthday Party*, *The Black Rogue*, *Mid-Day Special*, *The Mother of Oisín*, *A Piper*, *The Dream of Angus Óg*, *Courtin in the Kitchen*, and *The Hound of Culann*. For a related press cutting, see N29/2/2/17.

16 pp.

2/1/16 3 March 1991

Programme of the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet 40th anniversary performance at Belfast Civic Arts Theatre. The repertoire included *A Piper, Children of Lir*, and *Phil the Fluter's Ball*. With photographs of the company's past performances.

16 pp.

2.2 <u>Press Cuttings (1929-1990)</u>

2/2/1 11 May 1929

Photocopy of an article relating to a dance festival in the Ulster Hall [Belfast]. With several references to Patricia Mulholland, who competed in the festival alone and with a team.

2/2/2 [c. June 1951]

Photocopies of reviews of four programmes of Irish folk songs and dances at the Ulster Hall, Belfast, organised by CEMA in conjunction with the Festival of the Arts. Participants included the Irish Ballet who performed Patricia Mulholland's choreography *The Dancer*.

7 items

2/2/3 [1951]

Photocopy of a photograph from a newspaper of Patricia Mulholland and members of the Ulster Girl Guides and Rangers who gave a performance of national and traditional dances at the Sports Arena at the Festival of Britain Exhibition in London.

1 item

2/2/4 [c. 1951-1967]

Photocopy of a press cutting relating to Alfred Arnold, make-up artist for the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet, and the company's performance at the King George VI Memorial Hall, Belfast.

1 item

2/2/5 [c. 1953]

Photocopy of a [newspaper?] photograph of Norman Maternaghan vanquishing Reggie McClure in a fight scene from *Cuchulain*.

1 item

2/2/6 1958

Photocopy of a review of a performance of *A Piper*, *The Dream of Angus* Óg, and *Follow me Down to Carlow* by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet in the Queen's Hall, Holywood [county Down].

1 item

2/2/7 [c. 1960?]

Photocopies of reviews of a performance of *The Children of Lir* and *Phil the Fluter's Ball* by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the Grand Opera House, Belfast.

2 items

2/2/8 [c. 1961-1982]

Photocopy of a photograph from a newspaper of the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet in their production of *The Children of Lír* at the Town Hall, Portadown.

2/2/9 [1962]

Photocopy of a review of a performance of Irish figure and step dances by Patricia Mulholland's dancers at the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Festival at the Royal Albert Hall, London. With a related photocopy of a newspaper photograph.

2 items

2/2/10 [c. 1962-1970?]

[Faxed?] typescript of an article outlining Patricia Mulholland's career and the history of her Irish Ballet Company. Prepared by Public Relations Advisers Ltd., Belfast.

2 pp.

2/2/11 1966

Photocopies of press cuttings relating to Patricia Mulholland's ballet *The Young Men and Women* (erroneously referred to in the press cuttings as *The Philanderer*), based on Bryan Merriman's eighteenth-century Irish poem *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche (The Midnight Court*), and its adaptation for television by Louis Lentin. Also see N29/2/3/21-22.

3 items

2/2/12 [1967]

Press cutting promoting forthcoming performances of *The Young Men and Women* by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the Grove Theatre, Belfast between 28 February and 4 March 1967. Incorporates a group photograph of company members, including Patricia Mulholland. For a related programme, see **N29/1/7**.

1 item

2/2/13 19 March 1967

Photocopy of a preview of RTE's annual concert of Irish music at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. The concert included a performance of Patricia Mulholland's ballet *Celtic Anthology*.

1 item

2/2/14 January-March 1968

Photocopies of press cuttings relating to a tour of Northern Ireland towns by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet between 10 February and 13 March 1968 under the auspices of the Arts Council.

4 items

2/2/15 March 1983

Photocopies of press cuttings relating to a series of performances by the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet at the [Belfast Civic] Arts Theatre.

4 items

2/2/16 1987

Photocopy of a press cutting relating to the Irish Ballet and the filming of Patricia Mulholland's ballet *Deirdre*.

1 item

2/2/17 [February 1990]

Photocopy of a newspaper photograph of Mandy McKee and Alison McKinley, two of the dancers in the Patricia Mulholland Irish Ballet. For a related programme, see N29/2/1/15.

1 item

2/2/18 [c. 1990s]

Photocopy of a press cutting relating to David Curry, Patricia Mulholland, and her Irish Ballet.

1 item

2.3 Photographs (1946-1979)

2/3/1 1946

Colour photograph (210 x 297 mm) of a certificate issued to Mulholland Team A for first place for a three-hand reel (over 16s) at Lisburn Feis.

1 item

2/3/2 [1951]

Black and white photograph (177 x 127 mm) of Brian Coleman in the lead role with seven female dancers during a performance of Mulholland's first Irish ballet, *The Dancer* in the Ulster Hall, Belfast.

1 item

2/3/3 [1951]

Colour photograph (128 x 188 mm) of a page from a scrapbook of two press cuttings bearing images of Patricia Mulholland performing with the Ulster Guides and Rangers at the Sports Arena, South Bank, London during the Festival of Britain Exhibition.

1 item

2/3/4 [1953]

Black and white photograph (175 x 127 mm) of a 'court scene' from the Irish ballet *Cuchulain*, taken in the Canavan family's garden in Belfast. *Left to Right*: Barry Kinghan and Mary O'Reilly; Pat Trainor and Edmund Johnston; Evelyn McGrath and Reggie McClure; Betty Walker and Hugh Murray; and Kevin Campbell and Harper Gourley. *Seated*: Stella O'Neill, Audrey Clarke, and Marie O'Neill.

2/3/5 [1955]

Black and white photograph (120 x 165 mm) by Reggie McClure of Dermott Brooks as the Paper Boy in *A Piper*.

1 item

2/3/6 [1956]

Black and white photograph (130 x 181 mm) of Stella O'Neill as Caer in *The Dream of Angus* Óg.

1 item

2/3/7 [1956]

Black and white photograph (126 x 177 mm) of Margot Bell in a swan costume from the chorus in *The Dream of Angus* Óg. For the costume, see N29/2/5/1.

1 item

2/3/8 [1956]

Black and white publicity shot (126 x 175 mm) of the ballet *The Dream of Angus Óg*, featuring Kevin Campbell as Angus and Marlene Bailie as Caer.

1 item

2/3/9 [1956]

Colour still (210 x 144 mm) from a video by Al Logan of a scene from *The Dream of Angus Óg*, depicting Angus's army marching out to do battle with the Sí. Image blurred.

1 item

2/3/10 [1956]

Colour still (210 x 162 mm) from a video by Al Logan of a scene from *The Dream of Angus Óg*, depicting Angus (Robert Hunter) being girded for battle watched by Dagda. Image blurred.

1 item

2/3/11 [1958]

Black and white photograph (120 x 165 mm) by Reggie McClure of George Leonard (ADCRG) presenting Kevin Campbell with a first prize at Portadown Musical Festival, Folk Dancing Section.

1 item

2/3/12 [1958]

Black and white photograph (157 x 210 mm) by Reggie McClure of Stella O'Neill and Kevin Campbell dancing a couples.

N29/

2/3/13 [1959]

Black and white photograph (155 x 110 mm) of Daphne Chestnut and Ciaran Doherty performing in *The Mother of Oisín*.

1 item

2/3/14 [1959]

Black and white photograph (181 x 129 mm) of Valerie Canavan, Ciaran Doherty, and Desmond Turner performing in *The Mother of Oisín*.

1 item

2/3/15 [1959]

Black and white photograph (192 x 111 mm) of Stella and Patricia O'Neill as hounds in *The Mother of Oisín*.

1 item

2/3/16 [1959]

Black and white publicity shot (160 x 150 mm) of the ballet *The Black* Rogue. A young piper (John Garvin) tries to resist the Puca (Hugh Murray) while Patricia Mulholland plays the violin.

1 item

2/3/17 [1959]

Black and white photograph (177 x 127 mm) of a scene from *The Oul'* Lammas Fair 1900. The monkey owner (Reggie McClure) amuses the children with his monkey (Jo O'Hara) while Mary Ann (Mary O'Reilly), her Hero (John Melville), and the Yellowman seller (Valerie Canavan) look on.

1 item

2/3/18 [1961]

Colour still (210 x 156 mm) from a video by Al Logan of the storm scene from *The Children of Lir*, depicting two swans buffeted by waves. Image blurred.

1 item

2/3/19 [1964]

Black and white photograph (179 x 132 mm) of (*L-R*) Valerie Canavan, Kevin Campbell, Margot Bell, Marlene Bailie, Brian Bunting, Jim Rooney, Patricia O'Neill, Frances Tomelty, John Garvin, and Patricia Mulholland marching through Royan at the opening of the Royan Folk Festival, France.

2/3/20 [1964]

Black and white photograph (149 x 99 mm) of Patricia Mulholland and her dancers performing on an open-air stage at Royan Folk Festival, France.

1 item

2/3/21 [1966]

Colour photograph (101 x 156 mm) by John Garvin of a scene from Brian Merryman's *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche*, an RTE film of 1966, with actors Derry Power, Fionnuala Flanagan, and Eithne Lydon on set at Jerpoint Abbey, Kilkenny. The performance was choreographed by Patricia Mulholland, and her dancers provided the crowd scenes. Also see N29/2/2/11 and N29/2/3/22.

1 item

2/3/22 [1966]

Colour photograph (156 x 101 mm) by John Garvin of local residents visiting RTE's film set for *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche* at Jerpoint Abbey. Also see N29/2/2/11 and N29/2/3/21.

1 item

2/3/23 [1967]

Colour group portrait (178 x 128 mm) of Mulholland Dancers in traditional costumes at the Viking Festival of Peel on the Isle of Man. Front Row, L-R: Marlene Bailie, Kevin Rafferty, Joyce Ann Henry, John Garvin, Sheelagh Gilligan, Brian Bunting, Patricia Mulholland, Kevin Lawson, Catherine Gilmore, Gerry O'Hare, and Ursula Quinn. Back Row, L-R: Linda Connolly, Niall Boden, Frances O'Hara, Edmund Henry, Frances Tomelty, Ciarán Doherty, Michelle Forster, Kevin Campbell, Sharon Tansley, and Reggie McClure.

1 item

2/3/24 [1979]

Colour still (211 x 169 mm) from a BBC production by Alan Tongue of a scene from *Deirdre*, depicting Naoise (Leslie Baird) being vanquished by a sea of slime. Image grainy.

1 item

2/3/25 [1979]

Colour still (211 x 169 mm) from a BBC production by Alan Tongue of a scene from *Deirdre*, depicting Deirde and Naoise discussing plans while two spies eavesdrop. Featured in the image are Carmel McGovern (as Deirdre), Leslie Baird (as Naoise), Tracy and Paddy Lamb (as the spies), Robert Hunter, and Mark McKinley. Image grainy.

2.4 Stage Sets (1961-1964)

2/4/1 [1961]

Colour photocopy of a scenery sketch by Henry Lynch Robinson for *Phil the Fluter's Ball*.

1 item

2/4/2 [1961]

Colour photograph (210 x 168 mm) of Henry Lynch Robinson's preliminary sketch of the stage set for *Phil the Fluter's Ball*.

1 item

2/4/3 [1961]

Colour photograph (210 x 297 mm) of two sketches by Henry Lynch Robinson of a lakeside scene for *The Children of Lír*.

1 item

2/4/4 [1961]

Colour photograph (210 x 297 mm) of two sketches, entitled 'Lake Derravarragh' and 'Lonely Lake' by Henry Lynch Robinson for *The Children of Lir*.

1 item

2/4/5 [1961]

Colour photograph (210 x 297 mm) of two sketches by Henry Lynch Robinson of the Palace of Lír and the Palace of Bov the Red for *The Children of Lír*.

1 item

2/4/6 [1964]

Colour photocopy of sketches of two scenes ('The Palace of Fergall' and 'The Glen of Monsters') by Henry Lynch Robinson for *The Hound of Culann*.

1 item

2/4/7 [1964]

Colour photocopy of two scenery sketches by Henry Lynch Robinson for *The Hound of Culann*, including the Fight at the Ford and the final scene, the Plain at Muirtherun, with the pillar for Cuchulain to tie himself to.

2.5 <u>Costumes (1956-1964)</u>

2/5/1 [1956]

White sequinned costume lacking sleeves worn by the swan maidens in *The Dream of Angus* Óg. Also see N29/2/3/7. Outsize.

1 item

2/5/2 [1964]

Green needle-cord tunic lacking cape with black trim made for *The Hound of Culann*. Outsize.

1 item

2.6 Ephemera (1964-1979)

2/6/1 [1964]

Colour photograph of an entry ticket to a Gala Evening at the Municipal Casino [in Royan, France] on 17 May [1964]. In French.

1 item

2/6/2 [1964?]

Colour photocopy of a typed list of characters in order of appearance in *The Hound of Culann*.

1 p.

2/6/3 [1968]

Photocopy of a flyer promoting *Oie Ghennal (Happy Night)*, a folk concert in the grounds of Peel Castle on the Isle of Man on 2 July 1968, where the Irish Ballet Company performed as guest artistes.

1 p.

2/6/4 [1979?]

Photocopy of a handwritten scenario in Scene 1 of *Deirdre*.

1 p.